



SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



YEAR 1943

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

S. T. Cochrane, M.D. D.P.H.

INCORPORATING THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

John Mullin, M. R. San. I.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Swadlincote District Urban District Council.

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Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year ending 31st December, 1943. On the instructions of the Ministry of Health the report is again curtailed and details of population etc., have been omitted.

The Birth Rate is still increasing and is the highest since 1925, while the Infantile Mortality Rate is the lowest recorded, a happy state of affairs I would like to see continued.

There was a minor epidemic of measles during the early part of the year; the cases were mild and there were no deaths.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

S. T. Cochrane,

Medical Officer of Health.

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July, 1944.

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Area of District in Acres (inclusive of water)	3,754
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943)	5,533.
Rateable Value.	£84,908
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£325.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>mean of 5 years. 1939/1943.</u>
Live Birth Rate.	20.2	17.5	16.62
Live Birth Rate (England & Wales) per 1,000 civilian population.	16.5	15.8	15.2

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DEATH RATES. (per 1,000 estimated population)

Death Rate.	10.9	11.1	10.9
Death Rate (England & Wales)	12.1	11.6	12.4
Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births.	40.9	57.4	62.3
Death Rate Diarrhoeal Diseases (children under 2 years).	0.05	.05	0.07
Pthisis Death Rate.	0.15	0.3	0.167
Respiratory Diseases Death Rate	1.29	1.4	1.28
Number of women dying in or in consequence of child birth:			
From Sepsis	Nil	Nil	
From other causes.	Nil	3	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year. Previous year's figures are given for comparison:-

	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>mean of 5</u> <u>years.</u> <u>1939/1943</u>
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	45	72	42
Whooping Cough .. .. .	39	18	
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	nil	2	-
Diphtheria .. .. .	3	4	10
Measles .. .. .	383	10	
Erysipelas .. .. .	4	6	9
Pneumonia .. .. .	36	44	37
Cerebro Spinal Fever .. .. .	1	6	4

Thirteen cases of Scarlet Fever and two Diphtheria cases were removed to Isolation Hospital. A supply of diphtheria anti-toxin is kept at the Health Office and supplied free to medical practitioners requiring it for treatment of their diphtheria cases.

SCABIES.

In this area scabies was seldom seen before the war but during the year 451 persons were treated and in addition to this number 135 cases were treated by arrangement for three adjoining authorities. I do not think so many would have been dealt with had it not been for the co-operation of the Medical Practitioners who referred most of their cases for treatment. Enquiries made by the Sanitary Inspector usually showed that the case referred was not the only member of the family affected, and treatment was invariably offered to all members of the family at the same time. Of the 451 cases treated 119 were sent by their Doctor, and inquiries brought in the rest. Any children found to be suffering from scabies in school or at the Welfare Clinic were referred for treatment by the County Health Visitors.

Most of the cases were quite willing to accept treatment and it was only necessary to use the power of compulsion, given in the Scabies Order 1941, on seven persons. The threat of compulsion was usually sufficient where there was any difficulty. Benzyl Benzoate emulsion was used and proved effective, the usual two applications being sufficient to clear up most cases. Thirty-seven cases required retreatment within three months of their first treatment.



## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation against diphtheria was continued, the prophylactic used (alum precipitated toxoid) being provided free by the Ministry of Health whose recommendations as to amount and spacing of injections were followed. The Council continued to offer parents the choice of having their children immunised by their family doctor but only a very small number availed themselves of this offer, the majority being treated at the schools or welfare clinic.

The total number of children known to be immunised at December 31st. 1943, was 3,167. Of this number 775 were under five years of age, and 2,392 aged five to fifteen years. Estimated percentages of child population immunised at the end of the year are:- under five years of age 54% aged five to fifteen years 81%. Only three cases of diphtheria were notified thus continuing the reduction in notifications of this disease in recent years, one of these had been immunised and the case was mild. There were no deaths from diphtheria during the year.

## WHOOPING COUGH.

Ten children received vaccine treatment against Whooping Cough.

## WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied to the area by the Swadlincote and Ashby Joint Water Committee augmented when necessary by a bulk supply from South Staffordshire Water Company, samples taken during 1943 showed the water was of satisfactory quality but the quantity available is not sufficient to meet the needs of the areas served by the Joint Committee, and a scheme has been prepared for sinking a new borehole to increase supplies, this has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval.

The supply is normally constant but owing to shortage, restrictions were first imposed in August, 1942, and during 1943 the supply was cut off for a few hours daily during the latter half of the year; at the time of writing this report restrictions are still in force. Ample supplies of water are available to the Council from the South Staffordshire Water Company whose mains are connected to the Council mains but this source cannot be fully utilised owing to the pressure being insufficient to reach all parts of the district. Consumers in the Stanton and Newhall Wards have a constant supply of this water.

The waters have no plumbo solvent action and there are no standpipes in the district. The above comments are made at the request of the Ministry of Health.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary</u>		<u>Total.</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
No. cases notified during 1943	5	5	5	2	17
No. cases removed from Register in 1943:-					
(a) by death	2	2	1	-	5
(b) by recovery	-	1	1	-	2
(c) by removal from district	2	1	-	-	3
No. cases on register at Dec. 31st 1943.	<u>24</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>81</u>
	<u>43</u>		<u>38</u>		<u>81</u>

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AT VARYING AGES.Age Groups.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>1-</u>	<u>2-</u>	<u>3-</u>	<u>4-</u>	<u>5-</u>	<u>10-</u>	<u>15-</u>	<u>20-</u>	<u>35-</u>	<u>45-</u>	<u>60-</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	4	4	27	6	1	2	-	-	-	45
Diphtheria	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	3
Enteric Fever (including para-typhoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	2	2	2	2	-	1	1	1	8	3	8	6	36
Whooping Cough	3	-	3	5	7	20	1	-	-	-	-	-	39
Measles.	18	23	36	43	60	194	6	1	-	-	1	1	383
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	4
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1943.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING AND SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

HOUSING.

Housing Act 1936, section 9	
No. of inspections.	11.
No. of reinspections.	31.
Overcrowding. No. of inspections.	65.
Applications for Council houses.	91.
Council houses.	54.
Public Health Act 1936	Inspections. 290.
	Reinspections. 382.
	<hr/>
	924

The serious shortage of houses continued to cause concern and 91 fresh applications for Council house tenancies were made during the year. Most of the applicants are living under very unsatisfactory conditions, and it was hard to have to tell them that nothing could be done at present.

The powers given under Ministry of Health Circular 2845 (Requisitioning for families inadequately housed) were of no help in this district, since no suitable empty properties were available. A survey of the area was made and two premises submitted to the Council for requisition and conversion into housing accommodation, but after consideration these were not proceeded with.

Property owners continued to experience some difficulty in securing building labour for repairs and after the receipt of Ministry of Health Circular 2871 a meeting of builders was called to explain the Government Scheme for giving priority to housing repairs, this resulted in some improvement.

Proceedings under section 155, Housing Act, 1936 were taken following the illegal re-occupation of an empty condemned house upon which a Clearance Order had been confirmed. The owner of the property was fined £2., the family concerned were subsequently found other accommodation.

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RENT & MORTGAGE RESTRICTION ACTS.

Inquiries were made into ten complaints of rent overcharges and the particulars obtained given to the Clerk's Department for any necessary action.



## GENERAL.

Drainage inspections.	119
Drain testing.	45
Smoke nuisances.	18
Factories	54
Vermin	46
Schools	21
Scabies :	235
Shops Acts.	12
Animals -- keeping of	27
Water supplies.	22
Evacuation	22
Miscellaneous.	97
Infectious Diseases.	103.
Total.	821.

206 Complaints were received during the year; all received prompt attention and appropriate action was taken in each case.

## NOTICES SERVED.

	<u>Informal</u>	<u>Formal.</u>
Housing Act 1936 -- section 9	9	nil.
Public Health Act 1936.	221	42.
Shops Acts 1912 - 1936.	4	-
Rats & Mice Destruction Act 1919	18	-
Milk and Dairies Regulations	48	-
Food and Drugs Act 1939	6	-

## HOUSING.

The following works were completed after service of notices under the Public Health Act or Housing Act.

Animals -- keeping of.	8
Domestic chimneys -- nuisances abated.	7
Drains repaired, cleared or reconstructed.	83
Firegrates repaired or renewed.	10
Houses provided with water supply.	7
Premises in which dampness remedied.	10.
Roofs repaired	36.
Rain water gutters and pipes repaired.	15.
Verminous premises cleansed.	19.
Windows repaired or renewed.	11.
Walls and chimneys.	8.
Washing coppers repaired.	12.
W.C. Fittings repaired.	129.
Waste pipes.	4.
Yard paving repaired or renewed.	3.
Miscellaneous.	78.

Total. 440.



DISINFESTATION.

Nine houses were treated for bug infestation and ten for other verminous infestations. It was necessary to remove and destroy filthy and verminous bedding etc., from two houses.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

One hundred and three visits were made to houses where infectious diseases had occurred, fifty-three houses were disinfected, and bedding from eleven houses removed for steam disinfection.

SCABIES.

I continued to interview and follow up all cases of scabies referred to the Department for treatment; 235 visits were made for this purpose, approximately one half of the cases treated were found in this way.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

	<u>No. of Inspections.</u>
Bakehouses.	39
Butchers shops	69
Dairies & Cowsheds.	171
Cooked Meat Shops.	57
Fried Fish Shops.	13
Slaughterhouses.	19
Shops etc.,	<u>104.</u>
	<u>472.</u>

<u>FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938, Registration of premises.</u>	<u>No. Registered.</u>
Manufacture of sausages - cooked meats etc.,	18
Fried Fish Shops.	13
No. of inspections.	70.

NATIONAL MILK TESTING AND ADVISORY SCHEME.

Sampling of producer retailers for the resazurin test commenced in Nov. 1943 and thirty-eight samples were taken; seven advisory visits to farms were made at the request of the County War Agricultural Committee.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

No. of producers in district		29.
No. of retailers in district.	30)	
" " " from outside district	17)	47.
No. of inspections of dairies and cowsheds		171.
Informal Notices served under Milk & Dairies Regulations		48.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

An effort was made to interest the dairymen in the production of milk of better keeping quality and eighty-four samples were taken for examination.

Results of samples - all retailers.

	<u>satisfactory</u>	<u>unsatisfactory.</u>
Methylene Blue Test.	47	16.
Bacillus Coli.	38	20.

Results of samples of milk produced within the area.

	<u>satisfactory</u>	<u>unsatisfactory.</u>
Methylene Blue Test	22	5
Bacillus Coli	17	7

PASTEURISED MILKS.

There are no heat treatment plants in the district but three supplementary licences are in force for the sale of pasteurised milk. Twenty-one samples were submitted, sixteen samples satisfied the phosphatase test and five failed. The samples failing to satisfy the test were of milk pasteurised by one dealer who was warned and subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

Three samples were examined by the County Council and reported free from tubercle bacilli. Improvements carried out during the year were:- two cowsheds rebuilt and modernised, two new dairies built at farms.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT 1919 - Infestation Order, 1943.

At the instance of the Ministry of Food much more attention was given to rodent destruction. A survey of the whole district was carried out during July, 1943 and during October a Council employee, who had been trained in rodent destruction at a Ministry of Food Course, was made available to me for this work part-time.

No. of inspections and visits to premises.	1,916
No. of points poisoned.	421
No. of premises dealt with.	309
Estimated no. of rats killed at December 31st. 1943.	1,354
No. of notices served on occupiers.	18

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following foods were condemned in shops etc.,

Sweets 8 lbs.	Ham 48 lbs.	Jam 9 lbs.
Vinegar 4 bottles.	Minced meat 3 jars	Sugar 1 cwt.
Biscuits 40 lbs.	Biscuit dust 67 lbs	Bacon 54 lbs.
Prunes 7 lbs.	Eggs 37 doz.	Sausage 101 lbs.
Piccalilli 5 jars.	Fish 27 boxes. (weight 105 st.)	
Canned meat 3,050 tins	Fish cakes 140.	
Assorted canned goods 279 tins.		

Foodstuffs surrendered as unfit for human consumption are salvaged for industrial use or animal feeding where practicable. The fish and sausage were decomposed owing to delay in delivery by rail.

FOOD DECONTAMINATION SERVICE.

Training and practices of this service continued and a demonstration was given of the treatment of foods affected by poison gas.

JOHN MULLIN,

Sanitary Inspector.



